

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe*

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 23

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 23, 1942

## Press Reflects U. S. Feelings Toward War

Majority of Newspapers Are in a Very Critical Mood Over Recent Developments

### MANY QUESTIONS ARE ASKED

Public Urged to Face Realistic Criticisms and Ignore Those Which Are Not Well Founded

If Congress and the press reflect the feelings of the nation as a whole, the American people are becoming stirred over the setbacks which we and our allies continue to suffer in the war. Who is to blame for our repeated failures in the war? Who is responsible for allowing such costly mistakes to occur as the burning of the Normandie? Are the American people smug and complacent; are they underestimating the strength of their enemies?

These are questions over which there is heated debate. Much of the criticism now in the air is well founded and needs to be made in order to bring about necessary reforms. Some of it, however, is absurd and illogical.

A few days ago, for instance, one member of the Senate delivered a scathing attack upon the administration. In one breath he said that it was bad business for government leaders, meaning President Roosevelt and his advisers, to tell the Army and Navy officials how to run the war. In the next breath, he proceeded to tell the country, as well as the Army and Navy officials, how to run the war. He declared that it would have been much better for the United Nations to have sent General MacArthur and his men to Singapore in the effort to save that vital fortress than it was to divide our strength between the Philippines and Singapore, with the result that neither was saved.

### Armchair Strategists

The senator failed to realize that the Philippine army is made up primarily of Filipinos, not men from the United States. Nothing, or no one, not even the senator, could have persuaded that army to walk out on its own country in order to defend Singapore!

Such is a typical illustration of many irresponsible criticisms and ideas which are going the rounds. The average citizen should guard himself against being influenced by everything which is said by critics of the war effort.

On the other hand, many newspapers and leaders are pointing out weaknesses which must be overcome if we are to bring this war to a successful conclusion. In the remainder of this article, we shall pass on to our readers a sampling of the editorial comment which has appeared in the nation's press during the last week or so.

To some, the editorials that we  
(Concluded on page 8)



SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

## Wisdom for Today

As we undertake to chart our courses through the storms of the present and into the uncertainties that lie ahead, we need to call the wisdom of the ages to our assistance. We should not depend wholly upon the present for guidance, but we should reach back into the past for aid and counsel. The poem reprinted below is not a new one. "If," by Rudyard Kipling, has probably been read by every reader of this page. But few there are who will not find satisfaction through further reflection upon these inspiring lines:

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too,  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise,

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master,  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim,  
If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same,  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools,

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss,  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!",

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much,  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

## Japanese Victories Mean Longer War

Important Advantages Seen for Axis Nations in World-Encircling Conflict

### NEXT FEW WEEKS CRITICAL

Task of United Nations Is to Prevent Germany and Japan from Joining Hands in India

New lines of strategy to meet the new situation resulting from the loss of Singapore were being developed in Washington and in London last week. As the great British naval base in the Southwest Pacific was forced into unconditional surrender, and as the Japanese hordes pressed on into Sumatra, determined not to give their opponents a breathing spell, military officials of the United Nations were called upon to face grave questions and to make grave decisions.

How shall the United Nations dispose of their available strength in an effort to stem the Japanese tide in the Pacific? Which garrisons can be reinforced, particularly in regard to air power? Which must be neglected for lack of sufficient war materials to go around or for lack of ships in which to send them? How much is the war likely to be prolonged by the fall of Singapore, and what steps must be taken to provide for the effects of a longer war? What new dangers are arising in the European and Atlantic theaters of war?

### Where Do We Stand?

As officials anxiously studied questions of this kind, they attempted to survey the situation as it now stands. It is a situation which demands calm and realistic appraisal. There is much in the picture which is discouraging and even foreboding, but there is a good side as well as a bad. The problem—the difficulty in a time like the present—is to get the picture into proper perspective.

The fall of Singapore may be compared with the fall of France in the summer of 1940. It is the kind of defeat which historians afterward look upon as a turning point in war; a defeat which shifts the weight of advantage so much that the whole course of the conflict is profoundly affected.

When the war first broke out, the French system of fortifications in Europe was regarded as an impregnable barrier which would keep the Germans locked up in the east. But the Nazis managed to go around the barrier. They placed themselves in a position to command the whole of continental Europe, and to move out from the continent in attacking other countries. Germany's conquest of France nearly won her the war in the dark summer months of 1940.

Singapore bears points of similarity to the French Maginot Line. It was regarded as the barrier which would

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GUARDING THE COAST. Since the war began, the Army has lined the coasts of the United States with defensive forces. These protected planes are "somewhere in California."

## A Week of the War

The following information is based on material furnished by the Office of Government Reports.

All Civilian Conservation Corps camps have been ordered to concentrate solely on war projects—either work on military reservations and areas, or on the protection of natural resources essential to the war effort. An estimated 200 camps will be unable to meet these requirements, and will be closed by next month. The CCC is now operating 800 camps.

Machines and men which last year produced \$20 billion worth of civilian goods can be converted to war production, according to the WPB. This industrial power, plus the war plants now operating or being built, will probably be able to reach the goal of \$40 billion worth of war materials within 1942.

Thunderbolt is the name given to the closely guarded P-47, one of the Army's newest pursuit planes. When all its guns cut loose at a target at one time, their volley has the force of a five-ton truck hitting a brick wall at 60 miles an hour.

The United States Navy needs field glasses, and is asking citizens who have good ones of certain types to lend them for service at sea. It cannot accept them as free gifts or loans, however, and will pay \$1 for each pair. The binoculars will be returned after the war is over. During World War I, a similar request was made, and 31,000 sets of field glasses were obtained.

Army engineers and the coast artillery have developed mobile 60-inch searchlights of 800,000 candlepower for aircraft defense. The lamps throw a beam of such brilliance that "on a fairly clear night, a newspaper can be read by their light five miles away." Ready for instant use, the searchlights are carried on balloon-tired trailers which can travel over the roughest sort of ground.

The Distinguished Service Medal has been awarded to Joseph L. Lockard, the soldier who manned the aircraft detector during the hour just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7. Had his warning been heeded by his superior officer, the disaster might have been prevented. Lockard, a private at the

time, has since been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Army ski troops are to train at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington. One of the nation's best-known playgrounds, the park is located about 100 miles south of Seattle, and includes over 341,000 acres. The troops will use only certain areas.

War needs will claim 53 per cent of the nation's total industrial output this year, the Department of Commerce reports. This compares with the 21 per cent which went for war purposes last year. The aircraft industry, moving along at four times its 1941 pace, will account for a good share of the increase, and the machinery industry will likewise be much greater.

The Navy has selected the Universities of Iowa and Georgia as two of the four universities at which it will install major aviation training programs. Altogether 30,000 pilots will be schooled at these four centers each year. The universities will provide buildings and grounds for physical education, classroom instruction, dining space and housing, and hospitalization.

In connection with aviation, the Army has announced that its Air Forces will be expanded to 2,000,000 men and officers. The number will be built to one million this year, and the rest will come later on.

Soldiers are to be provided with glasses at no cost. The Army has outfitted a number of trucks as optical units to accompany field armies. Each truck will carry a wide assortment of semifinished lenses which can be ground to final specifications by the five men in charge of the unit. A stock of other parts for glasses will also be carried.

American pilots in the Chinese Air Force "are giving Japanese airmen their worst licking of the war," according to the War Department. By the end of January, these hardy pilots, hailed as "The Flying Tigers," had destroyed at least 135 Japanese planes in the air and wrecked another 50 on the ground. Claiming 10 enemy planes to every one of their own which has been lost, the Americans have done much to protect the vital Burma Road.

## Personalities in the News

ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. STANDLEY was named a few days ago by President Roosevelt to undertake one of the most important assignments in the nation's diplomatic service—that of United States ambassador to Russia. As the successor of Laurence A. Steinhardt, who is now ambassador to Turkey, Standley goes to his new post with the important advantage of already knowing Josef Stalin. He became acquainted with the Russian leader last fall, when he went to Moscow with a group of Americans to see what war materials the Soviet army needed. Impressed by the job the Russians were doing, Standley returned convinced that they would hold out a long time.

Standley, who is 69, can look back on a naval career which began with his graduation from Annapolis in 1895. It included a number of years spent in command of warship squadrons, and ended with four years as chief of naval operations. He was also a representative to several world diplomatic conferences. In 1937, he quit the service only because he had reached the legal age limit for naval officers. Some months ago, however, he was called back to duty to represent the Navy in the OPM. More recently, he served on the special board which investigated the Pearl Harbor disaster.



Admiral Standley

FULL power over the nation's merchant shipping was placed last week under the control of a new War Shipping Administration, with Rear Admiral Emory S. Land as chief. Cargo space is precious, and his job will be to see that every hold is used in the most effective way to aid in the war.

His broad powers extend over all merchant vessels except those in the inland or coastal services, which are directed by Joseph B. Eastman (see THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, February 9).

Land, who is also chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission, was once known by American sailors as "the busiest guy in the Navy." Although retired from the service, he is still called "admiral." The nation's capital has come to know him as one of the most energetic officials in public life. He has kept up the pace which he set in Annapolis, where he starred in athletics and graduated sixth in his class. The Navy sent him to still another school for more technical training, and he came out to be an excellent ship architect and builder.



Admiral Land

JAMES M. LANDIS, new director of the Office of Civilian Defense, who is currently reorganizing the whole civilian defense setup, is no newcomer to government service. Early in the Roosevelt administration he served on the Federal Trade Commission. In 1935, when he was only 36, he was made chairman of the important Securities and Exchange Commission, charged with enforcing the Securities Acts, which he had helped get through Congress.

When Landis joined the SEC, he was known as one of the "braintrusts," and was suspected of having somewhat radical tendencies. However, he soon dispelled any such illusions by his conduct of office, and became quite popular with financial interests.

A brilliant student at Princeton and Harvard, Landis had been a professor at Harvard before entering the government. In 1937 he returned to Harvard as dean of the law school, where he stayed until taking over his new job with OCD. This period was briefly highlighted in 1939 when he served as special trial examiner in the deportation hearings against the Australian-born West Coast labor leader, Harry Bridges. After the testimony, he decided the case in Bridges' favor.



James M. Landis

A ONE-MAN campaign to bring about an understanding between Britain and Russia that will outlast their war alliance has been conducted in recent weeks by Sir Stafford Cripps. Since his return from Moscow, where he had served as Britain's ambassador, he has hammered on the theme that no permanent stability can be achieved in Europe's affairs unless Moscow and London arrive at a secure agreement on the continent's postwar reconstruction.

Such sentiments come as no surprise from Stafford Cripps. In spite of the fact that he is one of his country's most successful corporation lawyers, he has long been identified with the extreme left wing of British politics. An outright advocate of socialism, he has clashed not only with the British Tories, but also with the trade union leaders, whom he has frequently condemned as too timid and conservative.

Cripps is 52 years old. He is the author of legal works of great distinction as well as of many popular books on politics and war.



Sir Stafford Cripps

WITH the appointment of Vice-Admiral C. E. L. Helfrich as commander of allied naval operations in the Southwest Pacific, the Netherlands Indies now has an important voice in the conduct of the war against Japan. Admiral Helfrich replaces United States Admiral Thomas C. Hart, who found the strain of directing the Far Eastern naval struggle too much for his 64 years.

The new commander is considerably younger. Nevertheless, he brings to his task long years of experience in these waters. He was born in Java and his first assignment following his graduation from Der Helder—Holland's Annapolis—was as junior lieutenant in the Indies. Subsequently he commanded a destroyer flotilla, served as chief of staff at Batavia, and, in 1940, was made commander-in-chief of the Netherlands fleet.

When the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, Admiral Helfrich was prepared. More than a week before that surprise attack, he sent his naval units to sea and they went into action the moment war broke loose. Admiral Helfrich has become known as "Ship-a-Day" Helfrich because the Dutch navy has been sinking Japanese vessels at the rate of one every day since the Pacific war began.



Admiral Helfrich



# Seeing South America . xxii

BEFORE we get further with a discussion of Brazil, it might be a good thing to locate ourselves and see where Rio de Janeiro is in relation to certain other points on the map. In traveling from Buenos Aires to Brazil, we flew northeastward a distance of 1,600 miles. If we had proceeded in the same direction up the coast line to Natal, at the easternmost point on the Brazilian map, we would have traveled a further 1,400 miles. We would then have been 1,600 miles from Dakar, which figures so prominently as an air and naval base on the western coast of Africa. Rio de Janeiro is, therefore, about 3,000 miles from Dakar. When we left Rio, we proceeded directly northward, and traveled 2,500 miles over Brazilian territory before reaching Belém at the mouth of the Amazon. We were then



Walter E. Myer

about 5,500 miles from New York, which means that Rio de Janeiro and New York are 7,000 miles apart—more than twice the distance across the Atlantic and about half again as far as the distance from San Francisco to Tokyo. When we were in Buenos Aires, we were separated from New York or Washington by almost exactly a third of the distance around the globe.

Brazil is considerably larger than the United States; as large as the United States with an additional Texas thrown in. It is almost as large as Europe. Someone, in writing of Brazil's area, remarked that 65 Englands could be set down within Brazil. I have never figured that out, but it is probably correct. You will remember that it is about 3,000 miles

across the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific and not much more than half that distance between our northern and southern borders. Brazil is 2,700 miles each way at the farthest points.

While Brazil is larger than the United States, the population (45,000,000) is only about a third as great. Using approximate figures and without any attempt at precise accuracy, we may say that one-half of all the Brazilians are white, one-fifth are of mixed blood (white and Negro), one-seventh are Negroes, one-tenth are of mixed white and Indian race, and about one-fiftieth are Indians.

If all the people with any considerable amount of Negro blood were lumped together as they would be in the United States, about a third of the Brazilians would come under the classification of "colored."

Nearly nine-tenths of all the population live within a strip about 100 miles wide extending along the coast. The other tenth are scattered over the broad expanses of the interior.

Probably more than four-fifths of Brazil is covered by more or less dense forest. A large part of the central region, the Amazon watershed, is a tropical jungle-land. Despite the forests and jungles, however, there are rich agricultural regions in Brazil. The lands around Sao Paulo are particularly fertile. It is here that the world's most extensive coffee plantations could be found.

The natural riches of Brazil are almost inexhaustible. The forest supplies cannot be computed. Brazil raises three-fifths of the world's coffee, and it is rapidly developing cotton fields. Brazil may sometime displace the United States as the world's greatest cotton producer. Sugar and tobacco are other important products.

The story of Brazil's rubber is well known. At one time, the rubber from the wild forests along the Amazon constituted practically the only known supply of that product. And as late as 1910, Brazil was the chief rubber producer. Shortly after that, however, the cultivation of rubber trees and plantations of British Malaya and the East Indies on a large scale began. This rubber could be

produced more cheaply than the Brazilian, and displaced it on the market. Now Brazil produces only one per cent of the world's rubber. Henry Ford is trying to develop rubber plantations on the Amazon, and eventually Brazil may come back as an important rubber producer.

Brazil has extensive deposits of iron, some think the greatest in the world, though not much has been done with it as yet. Very important to the United States is the fact that manganese, essential in the manufacture of hard steel, is produced in Brazil as well as Russia. Unfortunately, coal is scarce in Brazil, and this may check efforts to develop manufacturing industries. Water power, however, is very plentiful.

Potentially Brazil is one of the richest nations in the world. Will her possibilities ever be realized? Will a large proportion of her vast resources ever be developed? This leads us to a further question: What has retarded Brazilian development to date? Why is it that this exceedingly rich nation supports a population of only 45 million people who are stretched along a thin coast line? Why are most of the 45 million people of Brazil desperately poor? I will leave these questions for discussion later.

—WALTER E. MYER

How the German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* escaped from the French port city of Brest last week, despite British attempts to thwart them, was not the only mystery surrounding these warships. They had lain idle in their berths for some months, and everyone wondered why the 110 bombing raids carried out by the Royal Air Force had not damaged or sunk them. The reason, it is now revealed, was that steel nets hung over the sides of the vessels had ward off many explosives and had limited the damage to the boats' superstructures.



The vast land of Brazil

## ♦ SMILES ♦

A lady, checking over her grocery bill, found this item: "One tom cat, 15 cents." Indignant, she called up her grocer and demanded to know what he meant by such a charge.

"Oh, that's all right, ma'am," he replied. "That's just an abbreviation for tomato catsup." —EXCHANGE

Little Nancy was taking her first piano lesson. After discovering the pedals, she solemnly asked: "When do I put on the brakes?" —CLASSMATE



"He claims it has a depressing psychological effect on his rivals." —BORGSTET IN COLLIER'S

Professor: "If this art gallery caught fire and you had time to save only five pictures, which five would you save?"

Practical Student: "The five nearest the door." —SELECTED

The new boy was spending his first morning on the job in a shipyard, and the foreman gave him a two-foot rule and told him to measure a large steel plate. The boy returned in 20 minutes. "It's just the length of this rule," he reported, "and two thumbs over, with this brick, and the breadth of my hand, and my arm from here to there bar the fingernails." —SELECTED

Tightwad: "Two quarts of gas and a pint of oil."

Filling station operator: "O.K., sir, and would you like me just to blow into the tires?" —SELECTED

Mother: "What are you looking for, Dick?"

Son: "Nothing."

Mother: "You'll find it in the box where the candy was." —CLASSMATE

"There are three things I'm always forgetting. I can't remember faces, I can't remember names, and—and—" "What's the third thing?"

"I can't remember." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

Joe: "How did Mother find out you didn't really take a bath?"

Bill: "I forgot to wet the soap." —LABOR

## News Quiz of the Week

### U. S. Public Opinion

1. According to the Gallup Poll, do the majority of the American people feel that we are doing all we can to win the war?
2. What is the attitude of the United States toward the war as compared to the attitude of the Axis nations, as pointed out by the *New York Herald-Tribune*?
3. Why does the Louisville, Kentucky, *Courier-Journal* feel that Congress is partly to blame for the present state of affairs?
4. What does General Hugh Johnson have to say on the subject of war production?

### The War Fronts

1. In what respects may the fall of Singapore be compared with the fall of France?
2. What is the importance of the war fronts in Java and Burma?
3. What is the principal feature of the Axis grand plan of strategy?
4. What new dangers are seen in the battle of the Atlantic?

### Miscellaneous

1. What warning was given to the American people in a joint statement issued by Donald Nelson and Secretary of Commerce Jones?
2. What is being done about the enemy aliens on the Pacific coast?
3. What was the significance of Chiang Kai-shek's visit to India?
4. How has Madagascar come into the news?



Sacking coffee beans in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil

# The Week at Home

## Sabotage or Accident?

It has been asserted that the tragic burning of the *Normandie* (now the U. S. S. *Lafayette*) in her berth in New York was accidental—that life preservers caught fire from a nearby acetylene torch.

The New York daily *PM*, however, believes that the fire may well have been the result of sabotage, since both that vessel and the entire New York harbor have been wide open to enemy activity. *PM* makes these charges because one of its reporters was able, some weeks ago, to get a job without difficulty on the *Normandie*. For a week he "played" enemy agent, finding dozens of opportunities to destroy the ship by fire, bomb, or other methods.

Fearing to publish the story, *PM* instead notified the Maritime Commission of the generally inadequate safeguards on the water front, but the warning was ignored. Even though it has no definite proof that the ship was sabotaged, *PM* thus has sufficient evidence that it could have been. The paper has also found great



WOLF  
J. Edgar Hoover

laxness and carelessness in the protection of war-production plants. A reporter, for example, found five separate factories which he could easily have fired or bombed.

Who is to blame for this state of affairs? Most observers feel that it is up to Congress and the President to act immediately in greatly expanding the personnel of the FBI. This agency, under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, is doing a splendid job, considering the size of its present staff, but in order to combat saboteurs and spies on an all-out basis, it should be given thousands of additional employees. Industry, too, must take on many additional guards.

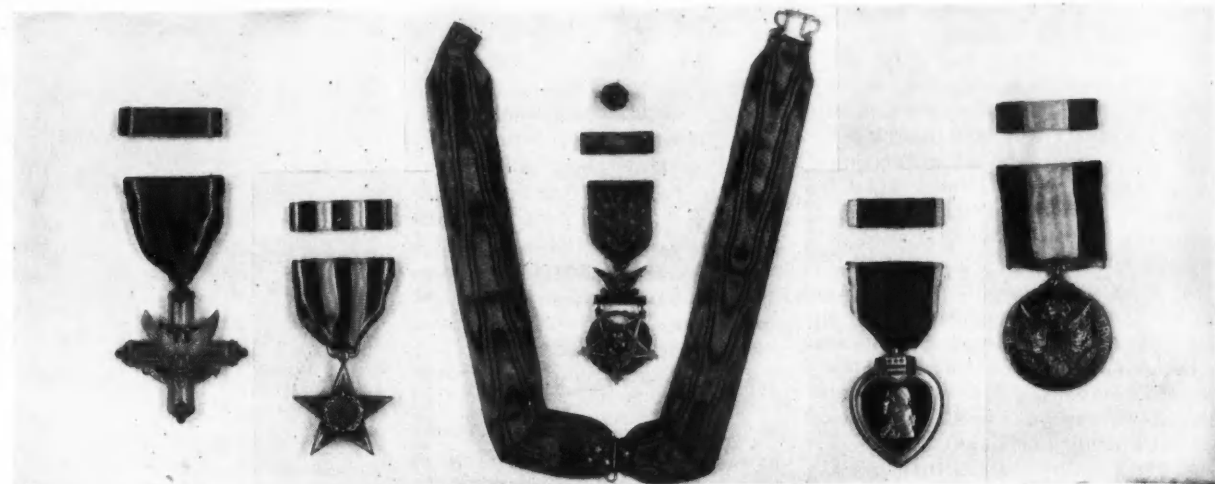
## Pensions for Congress?

One of the hottest potatoes which Congress has picked up in recent years is an innocent-looking section of the Civil Service Bill passed just a few weeks ago. The bill itself is merely a measure providing for compulsory retirement of appointed government employees at the age of 70, and extending retirement pensions to numerous federal workers.

The item which has caused all the trouble, however, is a provision permitting elected federal officials, including congressmen, to come under the retirement privileges without making back payments into the pension fund for the years they have already worked. The amount of money involved is quite small, and the principle at stake is one generally followed when additional employees are blanketed under a pension system.

Nevertheless, to the public at large it appeared to be a selfish grab for money on the part of congressmen who presumably should have been occupied with more serious war measures. Many critics argued that elected officials should not come under pension systems anyway.

So bitter and widespread have been



Distinguished Service Cross

Silver Star

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Medal

U. S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

the attacks on Congress that it is now taking hasty steps to recall the offending measure. Already the civil service committee of the House has before it a dozen bills, all calling for prompt repeal of pension privileges for members of Congress.

## Alien Restrictions

Because of the large number of Japanese and other enemy aliens living on the West Coast, the danger of a fifth column is greatly feared in that area. For this reason, the Department of Justice has taken drastic steps in the last few days to limit alien activities.

Most important move was to set up more than 100 restricted areas near defense centers from which all enemy aliens are barred after tomorrow, February 24. This, of course, entails great hardship on many innocent persons who have to leave their homes and businesses. Also it will disrupt California's truck gardening industry, for which Japanese provide much of the labor. However, so many enemy aliens have been found concealing forbidden radio transmitters, signaling devices, and weapons that this move seems quite necessary for public safety.

Many raids have been carried out by the FBI, especially in Buddhist and Shinto temples, resulting in the arrest of the most dangerous aliens. Foreign language schools, which have been regarded as propaganda centers, are now closed. Also, much of the California coast, extending in some places 150 miles inland, has been

made a "curfew zone." All enemy aliens in this area must remain at home from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

## Rubber Outlook

Hopes that somehow the rubber shortage might be eased before many months go by were given a stiff jolt last week by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones and Donald Nelson, war production chief. In a joint statement, they told the American people that the tires now on their cars will be the last they will get until the war is over. They emphasized that re-treading of tires will be severely rationed. Counting rubber on hand, rubber still arriving on ships, and substitutes to be made in factories, there is just about enough, with careful planning, to supply military needs.

No way out of the dilemma for civilians is seen, but several new prospects for bolstering the military rubber supply have appeared. At least 75,000 acres of the Mexican shrub guayule, from which rubber can be harvested, will be planted. And efforts will be made to tap the wild rubber trees which grow in the dense tropical forests of Brazil's Amazon River basin.

## Army Decorations

American soldiers in the Battle of the Philippines hail Captain Arthur W. Wermuth as a one-man army. The account of his daring exploits, which reached the United States last week, is filled with one thrilling incident

after another. Armed only with a 45-caliber tommy gun and a Garand rifle, his marksmanship has claimed at least 116 Japanese. He has engaged in many single-handed raids and scouting expeditions, and has been rewarded with the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Purple Heart with two clasps.

These are three of the Army's seven decorations. The highest of the awards is the Medal of Honor, which Congress gives to the soldier who risks his life in battle to do more than his duty and to display even



SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS  
The new spirit

greater courage than is generally expected of soldiers.

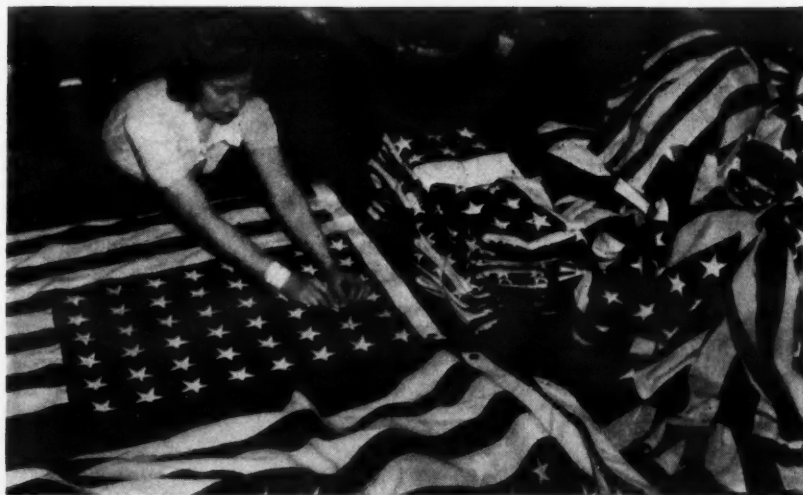
Unusual heroism, which is not quite up to Medal of Honor standards, is rewarded by the Distinguished Service Cross. It is given for feats performed during operations against the enemy.

The Distinguished Service Medal is presented to the man who renders especially fine service to the government while in a position of great responsibility.

The Silver Star is given when the bravery shown is somewhat short of the requirements for the Distinguished Service Cross.

Soldiers wounded in battle are given the Purple Heart, a decoration created by George Washington in 1782. It was discontinued not long afterward, but was restored as an Army decoration about 10 years ago.

When a man receives the same decoration a second time, a bronze Oak-leaf Cluster is added to the ribbon of the medal. Thus, Captain Wermuth has the Purple Heart with two clasps, indicating that he has been wounded in action three times.



SEWING STARS. The flags used by the Army are made in a flag factory in Philadelphia. Needless to say the plant has plenty of work to do these days.



# The Week Abroad

## Will India Yield?

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, whose armies have resisted Japan for more than four and a half years, emerged last week as a possible mediator between Great Britain and India. He made a special trip to India on a mission designed to win its full cooperation in the United Nations' war effort. Two days after his arrival in the now-menaced colony, the British government offered Indian Nationalist leaders a place in the Imperial War Cabinet, the empire's high board of strategy.

It is by no means certain that this concession will begin to meet the demands of the Nationalist leaders, who insist upon dominion status as the price of support for Britain's hard-pressed armies. Some observers, nonetheless, see the possibility that Chiang may be able to achieve a satisfactory compromise that will finally throw India's substantial resources into the balance against the Axis.

With large areas of China overrun by the invader, General Chiang can bring to India's leaders a firsthand account of what Japanese conquest has in store for those nations that fall under Tokyo's rule. At the same time, as an ally of Britain with enormous man power reserves at his command, Chiang is in a position to exert some pressure upon London for a reasonable and far-sighted solution of the long-standing Indian problem.

## Africa's "Burma Road"

Work has now been completed on a 1,500-mile highway that may become as vital to the Mediterranean war theater as the Burma Road is to China's defense. This road, providing an overland link between the West African coast and Egypt, has been built by General Charles de Gaulle, whose Free French forces are allied with the United Nations in the struggle against the Axis.

For the present the road is being put to limited use. But its importance has been emphasized by Prime Minister Churchill's disclosure, in his latest speech, that Britain can no longer send its ships through the Western Mediterranean and must depend upon the route around the Cape of Good Hope. This is an expensively long journey which takes

most cargo vessels about six weeks. A highway across the heart of Africa, if kept in proper repair and supplied with adequate fuel and provision stations, could greatly reduce the shipping burden.

The Free French road has been laid out along what was formerly an ill-marked caravan trail. It begins at the port of Duala in French Equatorial Africa, where General De Gaulle has his headquarters. It passes through a dense jungle region, not far from the Equator, then through scrubby semidesert to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan capital of Khartoum. There it connects with a railroad leading to Cairo, Alexandria, and Suez ports.

## British Public Opinion

The fall of Singapore and the daring escape of Nazi warships past the Strait of Dover have come as a rude jolt to the British public. Not since France surrendered, leaving

brave mood of defiance and the magnificent will to victory that was hammered clean and bold on the beaches of Dunkirk have given way to laxness, indecision, and too much reliance upon Britain's allies.

As a result of these criticisms a rather extensive reorganization of the British cabinet was expected in London last week.

## Madagascar Threat

About 250 miles off the southeast coast of Africa is Madagascar, a large, sparsely populated island that has been in France's possession since 1894. Nearly the size of France itself, the colony produces rare woods, coffee, rice, some rubber, and spices. Its 4,000,000 natives are ruled by a handful of French officials loyal to the Vichy government. (See map on page 6.)

Because of the island's strategic location along British supply routes up the African coast to the Red Sea,



The gauntlet run by German warships through the English Channel

them to face the Axis alone, have Britons been so shocked, angered, and bewildered. They were prepared for the loss of the Far Eastern bastion. It could be explained away by Japan's overwhelming superiority in Malaya. But they are not satisfied with the explanations of how the Nazi warships successfully challenged Britain's might in waters where the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy were supposed to be supreme.

As a result, criticism of the entire conduct of the war has become sharply edged. Even Churchill's words have lost some of their magical reassurance. The British are not yet ready to replace him. They see no one who remotely measures up to the Prime Minister's stature.

But many of the government's critics and some newspapers that have generally supported the cabinet feel that Churchill has been shielding the incompetence of some of his colleagues behind his own personal prestige. They demand a thorough house-cleaning. They charge that too many officials harbor smugness and complacency. They assert that the

British, in September 1940, called upon Madagascar to repudiate its ties with Vichy and join the forces of General Charles de Gaulle, the Free French leader. The island's officials ignored the ultimatum and even permitted Nazi technicians to prepare the island's ports for possible offensive bases.

So long as Singapore remained in British hands, these Axis activities constituted no real threat. But with Singapore under their control, the Japanese now have free access through the Strait of Malacca to the Indian Ocean. It would be difficult to prevent Japanese warships from stealing across the Indian Ocean to Madagascar, whence they could strike at ships carrying supplies to North Africa by way of the Red Sea, and to Russia by way of the Persian Gulf.

Though the island is for the most part undeveloped, its harbor of Diego-Suarez offers an excellent naval base and is equipped to repair good-sized vessels. In view of the fact that Vichy has been helping the Germans to get reinforcements through the Mediterranean to Libya, the British



AND NOW INDIA. Realizing the nearness of war, the people of India are joining in an all-out effort to prepare for emergencies that may come. Here a group of Parsee women practice lowering an air-raid victim from a damaged building.

fear that Vichy might be equally accommodating to the Japanese at its Madagascar colony.

## Nazi Naval Threat

The combined American and British navies that patrol the North Atlantic sea lanes may soon be faced with new and disquieting tasks as a result of the successful passage of Nazi warships through the Strait of Dover to their home bases. For about a year, the powerful 26,000-ton battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* have been kept immobilized in the French port of Brest by repeated Royal Air Force raids. The RAF's failure to sink the ships had been something of a disappointment. But the attacks at least kept the ships from being adequately repaired for service. Now that they have escaped to the shelter of more distant German bases, in company with the cruiser *Prince Eugen*, they may prove to be far more difficult targets.

The danger lies in the possibility that, after essential repairs, they will be joined with other Nazi warships to make up a formidable raiding force. Hitler now has under his command a fleet that consists of three battleships, including the *Tirpitz*, which can outgun and outrun most other vessels of its type; two pocket battleships; six to eight cruisers; and probably two new aircraft carriers.

Such a powerful aggregation of naval might is bound to have repercussions of a serious character in the battle of the Atlantic. For one thing, it serves as a constant threat to the American base at Iceland. It may compel the diversion of Anglo-American ships from much-needed convoy service. It may weaken the allied hunt for Nazi submarines operating close to American shores.



TEA FOR YANK. A British girl in Northern Ireland pours tea for one of the boys in the American Expeditionary Force.

## The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

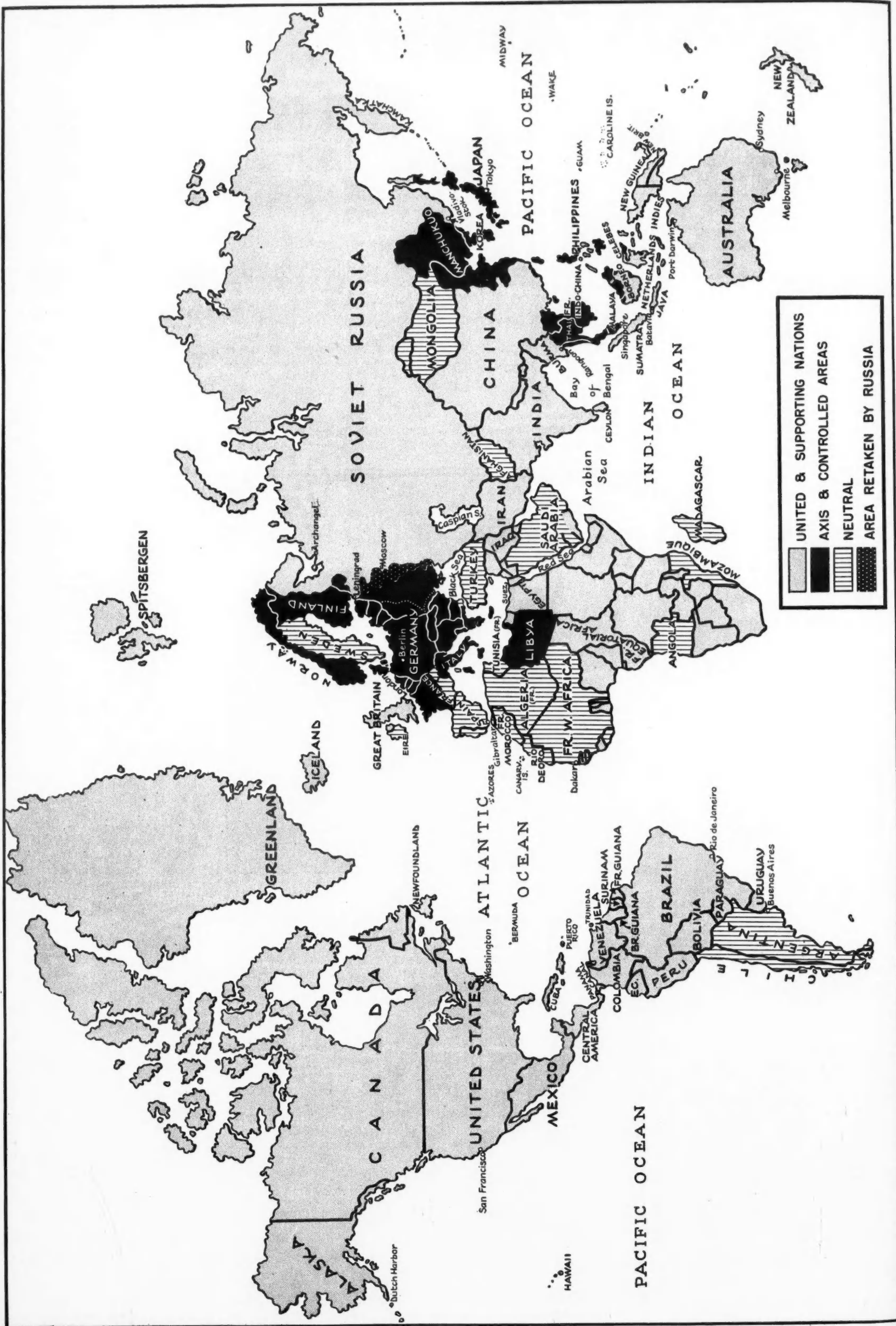
Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.

Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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# Axis Moves Swiftly to Exploit Gains

(Concluded from page 1)

keep Japan locked up in Pacific waters, and which would defend the priceless Netherlands East Indies against successful Japanese invasion. So long as the British held Singapore, it was believed that Japan could be kept under control.

Japan has now broken her great barrier, just as the Germans did. She is in a position to attack and invade the Netherlands Indies. She has a passageway to the Indian Ocean. She is in possession of riches of which she stands greatly in need. Her victory at Singapore presents her with a great opportunity which she will do her best to exploit.

## Rounding the Picture

This would seem to make the future look dark indeed for the United Nations in the Far East. And we may as well admit that it is dark. However, it can be pointed out that things are not so black as they were in 1940. After the fall of France it appeared that nothing could stop Germany; that victory was within her grasp. But Germany was stopped, and she was stopped by the fighting spirit and determination of the British people. All the odds were against the British but they would not give in. The small Royal Air Force fought the grim battle of the skies above Britain and Hitler's ambition to invade the British Isles was frustrated.

The European picture has brightened since that time. Britain has not only held on but is stronger than she was in 1940. Germany has met with severe reverses in Russia. The resources and power of the United States are moving into the front line of action. The war in Europe has taken turns in favor of the United Nations since the collapse of France.

The fact that Germany was halted when things were at their worst in Europe does not necessarily mean that Japan will also be stopped. In the Far East distances are great and the Japanese position is one of strong advantage. It is a serious question whether the next lines of defense against Japan—in Java and in Burma—can be held.

Yet it can be said that the task of checking Japan in 1942 does not appear to be anything like so hopeless as the task of holding Germany seemed in 1940. The United Nations are growing stronger every day. Determination and speedier action can turn the tide against Japan.

## Grand Strategy

The strategy underlying the plans of Japan and Germany seems to be clear. Japan will rapidly follow up the advantage gained in Singapore to push the attack against Burma, India, and the Netherlands Indies. Japanese Premier Tojo declared last week that the victory over Singapore would enable Japan to deal with Burma, China, India, the Netherlands Indies, Australia, and New Zealand in that order.

It is expected that Germany will try to complete the encirclement of Europe and Asia, by launching a great drive against the Near East. This campaign, in fact, may already be under way, and its spearhead may be General Rommel's heavily reinforced troops in Libya. The new German-Libyan advance, which seemed at first to be a counter-offensive designed to halt Britain,

may turn out to be the beginning of Hitler's long-expected march against the Near East. Rommel may be headed for the Suez Canal, which commands the passageway from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean.

Germany and Japan apparently hope to join hands in India. If they succeed, the United Nations will be in for darker days than any they have yet witnessed. The Axis powers will command resources and terri-

ble this valuable island and will certainly make a last ditch fight against invasion. They believe that their chances of holding are good, provided air reinforcements arrive.

Aid is being sent to Java over the new supply line opened up across the South Pacific by the United States. This line runs from Hawaii to New Zealand by way of Samoa and other now fortified islands. The recent blow dealt to Japanese bases

cussed in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER last week). If Germany can be kept on the defensive on this front it will be difficult—although not impossible—for her to launch major drives in other directions.

The next front is in the Near East. Here the task is to hold Egypt and the Suez Canal, for if they are lost Britain will be knocked out of the Mediterranean. Germany will have access to the oil of Iran and Iraq, and will be able to pass through the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. It would be a defeat of very great proportions for the United Nations.

The Near East drive may come from several directions—if Hitler's position in Russia permits him to launch it. The Germans may come through Libya, as we have already noted, or they may come by way of Turkey or the Russian Caucasus. One of these paths, of course, does not exclude the others.

## The Atlantic

The third important front which needs to be held against Germany is out in the broad Atlantic where the supply lines fan out in many directions from the United States. During recent weeks Germany has increased the tempo of her submarine campaign against shipping. Nazi U-boats have carried the war to the American coast line and the rate of sinking is once more taking an upward turn.

A disconcerting event for the United Nations was the successful escape through the English Channel of the *Scharnhorst*, the *Gneisenau*, and the *Prince Eugen* a few days ago. The German navy is now united in the North Sea and is in a position to move out against shipping. Large raiders such as the *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisenau* can do a great deal of damage.

Danger may also develop on a larger scale in the South Atlantic. Washington and London are concerned over evidences of increasing cooperation between Germany and Vichy France. There are reliable reports that French ships, operating from the French colony of Tunisia, helped to bring reinforcements to General Rommel in Libya. There has been a revival of rumors that Hitler is about to move into Spain, Portugal, and French North and West Africa.

The United States has been using all its diplomatic powers of persuasion to keep Vichy from falling entirely under Axis control. It has sent food to the starving French, and has tried to impress Vichy officials with the good will of the United Nations. However, if those officials conclude that Japan's successes will give the Axis the margin it needs for victory, they may yield to Hitler's demands.

Thus there are dangers on many fronts as the fateful spring of 1942 draws near. The United Nations and the Axis are engaged in a great race against time—a race which is likely to be decided before the remaining months of this year have run their course.

The map on page 6 is the first of a series of large maps on the battle fronts of the Second World War. The maps will appear during coming weeks as particular fronts come into the news.



**AID TO RUSSIA.** Britain and the United States have been sending supplies to Russia to help bolster the Russian front. Can they increase shipments to aid Russia in stemming a Nazi spring offensive?

ories which will be of inestimable value to them in waging war. They will face on three oceans—the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian. They will be in a position to squeeze Russia from two or more directions.

The strategy of the United Nations is to prevent such a major breakthrough on the part of Japan and Germany. In the Far East it is their task to hold on to Java as long as possible, for with this base in their

on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands will help to protect this route. From New Zealand war materials are sent to Australia and from there to Java.

The Burma front has to be supplied from the other side, that is to say, by way of India. Like Java, it is of the utmost importance for it guards the path not only to India but also to China. The famous Burma Road, over which China is supplied, has its terminus at the port of Rangoon. Jap-



**LAST DAYS OF SINGAPORE.** Before the Japanese came the natives of Singapore were registered to help provide for their security and identification. The population is now under Japanese administration.

hands they are able to launch effective counterattacks in the Southwest Pacific and to harry Japanese operations in the Indian Ocean.

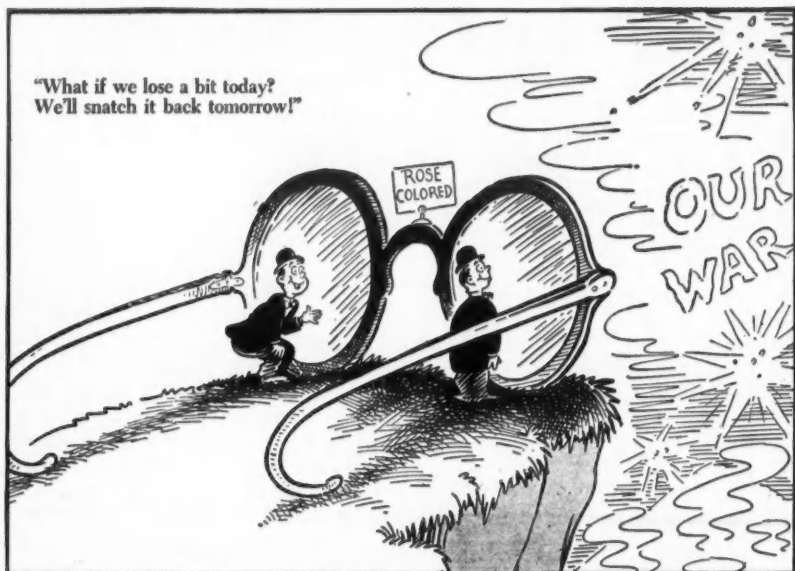
Java is the richest and most thickly populated of the Dutch isles in the Far East. Its naval base at Surabaya, while not to be compared with Singapore, is one of the leading bases in the Far East. The Dutch have concentrated their defenses on

anese forces are perilously near Rangoon.

China's ability to continue fighting, and India's whole position in the war, are matters which are at stake on the Burma front.

From the European end, the task is to prevent a major break-through by Germany along several fronts. Foremost and most promising at the moment is the Russian front (dis-





DR. SEUSS (C) MARSHALL FIELD FROM NEWSPAPER PM  
Complacency

## Press Criticizes War Effort

(Concluded from page 1)

quote may seem too pessimistic—too critical. They would be if we had not pointed out time and again the elements of American strength in the war—our unlimited resources and highly skilled population. Now the time has come to look at the darker side of the picture; to adjust our mental attitudes to the very real possibility of a long, hard war instead of thinking of the conflict as an easy setup, with victory for our side only a matter of time.

### Fighting Spirit Needed

Once the American people realize the gravity of the situation; once they recognize the real strength of their foes, they will develop that fighting spirit which has enabled them to overcome all obstacles, however great, in the past, and to develop the most advanced nation in the history of the world.

Now for some quotations. We shall begin with an editorial entitled "We're Not Winning the War," which appeared a few days ago in the *Washington News*. It reads:

"Do you think the United States is doing all it can toward winning the war?"

"The Gallup Poll, having put that question to a cross-section of the nation's voters, reports that 78 per cent of those interviewed answered 'Yes.'"

"(Too bad the pollsters couldn't reach the Americans hoping vainly for reinforcements in the fox holes of Bataan. They might have a different opinion.)"

"If more than three-fourths of the American people actually believe that this country is doing all it can toward winning the war, they are victims of one of the most dangerous mass delusions in all history. . . ."

"On the home front, save for the honorable exception of those who have given sons or husbands or brothers or fathers, nobody has yet been required to make such contributions of toil and taxes and self-denial as can be made and must be made."

"America so far is losing this war. Instead of pride in what we have done, we should feel shame that we have done so little. If we hope to lick the Germans and Japanese, we must lick the spirit of complacency among ourselves and in our government."

The *New York Herald-Tribune* issues a similarly frank challenge to

this nation in the following editorial:

"There is urgent need of a new spirit in this country. It must start at the grass-roots and travel up through every phase of our life to the White House; it must continue in the White House and travel down through every branch of administration, of command, of politics, industry and labor organization to the grass-roots. We believe this spirit will come. But it needs to be said, in calmness and frankness, that if it does not come, this war cannot be won and every American who survives must face the sober fact of a new Dark Ages, as evil as anything in the history of civilization."

"It is a fact that we can lose this war; it is a fact that as of today we are losing it. In its present phase this war is a race between the Nazi-Japanese dictators, trying to seize the outpost positions, bases, raw materials, factory capacity and slave populations which will make them impregnable, and the United Nations, trying to mobilize and apply their inherently much greater, but hitherto disorganized strength in time to defeat that objective."

"Into this race the Axis dictatorships are pouring every energy which they can extort from their peoples; they do not care what risks they take, how many lives they throw away, what miseries or savageries they inflict, what privations they impose."

"Among their opponents there is as yet no such attitude—certainly not among the Americans, perhaps not fully among the British or the dominions. We are still being cautious, playing it safe, fighting disconnected delaying actions, relying on time, on the exhaustion of the enemy, on our potential power. We are slipping steadily behind in the race that matters now. And unless and until these attitudes change, we can never recover this lost ground."

### Who Is to Blame?

Again comes the question, "Who is to blame for the way things are going?" An editorial in the *Louisville, Kentucky, Courier-Journal* has a few words to say to Congress:

"The House's performance on the Office of Civilian Defense appropriations was an orgy of self-righteousness. The OCD is subject to criticism. But with all of OCD's shortcomings, the 'frills' which were so violently

denounced in the House were perfectly inconsequential compared to that pension grab after Pearl Harbor, or to the six months of shameful dallying over price-fixing without even then producing an adequate law, or to any of the dozen other examples of complacent politics as usual which Congress has provided."

"The people of the country are not yet fully aware of their danger or of the extent of the disaster their cause is suffering daily in the Far Pacific. Nevertheless, they are ahead of Congress in that respect and the time has come for our senators and representatives to catch up."

"Winds are blowing in the world today bitterly hostile to democratic institutions, of which the members of Congress represent one of the most important. Never in American history have they had a greater responsibility to preserve their branch of government from ridicule and disrespect."

The *Washington Post* singles out President Roosevelt and the departments under his direction for criticism. It argues as follows:

"Mention was made of public complacency in America at the President's press conference Tuesday. The President said there was a certain amount of public complacency but that the American people are beginning to be more realistic."

"The *Post* submits that the American people are more realistic about the war than the United States government."

"The *Post* submits that if there is any one industry in this country which needs conversion to a wartime basis it is our government. . . ."

"Department heads are running around town trying to grab this and that war activity to build up their own importance, and to perpetuate their own jobs, regardless of what is already being done."

"They know, and everyone in Washington familiar with government knows, that many of their operations can be merged, or greatly curtailed without any great loss and that thousands of valuable employees can be converted into war workers. . . ."

"So don't worry about the people,

Mr. President. They are nothing if not realistic. And they would hail you as never before if you converted our government to a wartime basis and set the example for the entire country."

An editorial in the newspaper *PM* asks a few questions of the rank-and-file of Americans: "When are you going to demand action from the government you elected? Do you know who your congressmen are? Have you written them? In this country it is your privilege to write to the boss. Have you told your White House what you think of how the *Normandie* was watched?"

(Editor's note: *PM* made an investigation of the *Normandie* before it was burned and found it pitifully lacking in proper safeguards against sabotage. It reported these findings to high officials in the Maritime Commission, but to no avail. It has since investigated numerous arms plants and found them similarly lacking in safeguards. See page 4.)

### A Brighter Side

Now for the brighter side of the picture. General Hugh Johnson, the well-known columnist, does not deny that we were far too slow in getting our war effort started, but he reports that our industrial machine has, in recent weeks, been making miraculous progress. He says:

"I have just been talking to a man who has seen the most recent figures on war production. . . . My friend is as near expert on war production as anyone we have. . . . For the first time since we began to produce at all, this hitherto pessimistic critic finds himself surprised with optimism. The progress is really astonishing. . . . Some of the most optimistic guesses—even of the President himself—which a few weeks ago seemed unbelievable—now appear attainable."

"It is not an exaggeration to call it a modern industrial miracle. No such record in retooling, much less in converting plants to the production of a completely new article, exists in ours or any other industrial history."

(Editor's note: The great progress to which General Johnson refers is mainly in the field of equipping plants so they will be able to turn out war weapons on a huge scale. This progress will not be strongly reflected upon the battle fronts for several months yet, although it already is beginning to make an impression.)

Raymond Clapper, another prominent columnist, contends that the American slowness in developing the necessary war spirit is in no way a sign of weakness but instead indicates the extent to which we have developed a civilized and humane society. Most people in this country, he says, clung zealously to the hope that sanity would prevail before the whole world was thrown into a state of barbaric warfare. Now that Americans see they must fight for a peaceful world, Mr. Clapper is convinced they will throw every ounce of their energy into the job.

From these and other statements of opinion contained in the American press, last week, we can conclude that the public is becoming fully aware of the nature of the crisis and also of the proportions of the task confronting the nation. There is a demand for more action and greater efficiency in prosecuting the war. There is impatience over delay and slackness. The average American is eager to get on with the job.



KIRBY IN N. Y. POST  
A time for courage